



COTTONWOOD CLASSICAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

2017-2018 School Profile

7801 Jefferson St NE | Albuquerque, NM 87109 | www.cottonwoodclassical.org | 505.998.1021

Secondary School Code 320124

Sam Obenshain, Executive Director | sam.obenshain@cottonwoodclassical.org

Peter Goss, Director of College Counseling | peter.goss@cottonwoodclassical.org

Jackie Geerts, Registrar | jackie.geerts@cottonwoodclassical.org

Josh LaClair, IB Coordinator | josh.laclair@cottonwoodclassical.org



History | Community | Educational Philosophy

Cottonwood Classical was founded in 2007 and is a tuition-free state charter school serving 700 students (chosen through admission lottery) in grades 6-12. Students come from across Albuquerque and its surrounding communities. The Albuquerque metropolitan area, containing a population of nearly 900,000 across four counties, is a tri-cultural crossroads, with deep roots in the Latino, Native American, and Anglo communities. Driven by scientific research facilities, technology companies old and new, and the burgeoning film/television industry, Albuquerque offers a diverse economic landscape.

Following the Paideia principles and pedagogy, Cottonwood offers the pre-university International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum while educating the student as a whole - intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically. Our guiding principle is for students to become life-long learners who actively engage in the curriculum through project based learning and Socratic seminars.

Class sizes average 17-22, and are mandated by the school's charter to remain below the state average. Of the 45 faculty members, 58% hold advanced degrees.

Curriculum

CCPS students can begin their high school courses in eighth grade. After completing their foundational courses in all major disciplines, all students enter the formal IB curriculum in 11th grade, where they choose to pursue the full IB diploma, to earn subject certificates, or to simply complete their high school diploma. CCPS feels it is invaluable for all students to participate in the rigor of the IB program regardless of their final graduation option.

All students complete an Extended Essay – of varying length based on Graduation Path – which is a scholarly writing on a topic designed by the student and completed under the supervision of a faculty advisor. The essay demands high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery, and academic discipline. The process, which begins in junior year, culminates with a formal presentation to the community early in the second semester of senior year. Recent essays centered on the following questions/topics: “By what means is the idea of tragic loss embodied in the art work of Francis Bacon and Frank Auerbach”; “Would the Indonesian Genocide of 1965-66 have occurred without Western influence?”; and “How effective has the implementation of a Corporate Social Responsibility at H&M Corporation been as a global growth strategy?”

Grades awarded are A-C, F (no D's) with a minimum passing grade of 70. GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale.

Graduation Requirements

English (4 units); Mathematics (4 units); Natural Science (4 units); Social Science (3.5 units) including New Mexico, U.S. and World History, Government, and Economics; Modern and Classical Languages (4 units); Physical Education (1 unit); Health (0.5); Electives (5 units); Theory of Knowledge/CAS/ Extended Essay (1 unit).

IB Courses Available

(SL = standard level; HL = high level); students can augment their course of study with fully accredited online IB courses in some disciplines.

Group 1: English English Literature SL/HL	Group 2: Languages Spanish SL/HL French Ab Initio SL	Group 3: Individuals and Societies History of the Americas SL/HL Philosophy SL/HL World History SL
Group 4: Experimental Sciences Physics SL/HL Biology SL/HL Environmental Systems and Societies SL Sports and Exercise Science SL/HL	Group 5: Mathematics Mathematical Studies SL Mathematics SL/HL	Group 6: The Arts / Electives Visual Arts SL/HL Music SL/HL Psychology SL

Co-Curricular Activities

Cottonwood offers six NMAA sanctioned sports – track (boys/girls), cross-country (boys/girls), volleyball (girls), basketball (boys/girls) and swimming (boys/girls) as well as recreational/charter league participation in soccer. Popular student activities include Science Olympiad, Choir, Chamber Music, Yearbook, GSA, National Honor Society, Rock Climbing Club, Student Government, Improv Club, Film Club, and Social Action Club.

Academic Profile

Graduating class size before 2015 precludes presentation of representative data for ACT/SAT and GPA ranges.

Class of 2014 | 21 students

Class of 2015 | 40 students | ACT Middle 50% (21-26) | Unweighted GPA Mean 3.38

Class of 2016 | 50 students | ACT Middle 50% (20-27) | Unweighted GPA Mean 3.21

Class of 2017 | 59 students | ACT Middle 50% (22-28) | Unweighted GPA Mean 3.41

College Enrollment Data

Cottonwood graduates were admitted to the following colleges and universities (Classes of 2013 - 2017).
Boldface indicates schools where students matriculated.

Adams State University
Abilene Christian University
Agnes Scott College
American University
University of Arizona
Arizona State University
**Barrett, The Honors College
at Arizona State**
Bard College
Baylor University
Bennington College
Boise State University
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brigham Young University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, San Diego
University of California,
Santa Barbara
California Lutheran University
Carleton College
**Central New Mexico
Community College**
Centre College
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
Clark University
Clarkson University
Coe College
Colby College
Colorado Christian University
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia College Chicago
Connecticut College
Cornell College
Creighton University
University of Dayton
University of Denver
Drew University
Earlham College

Eastern New Mexico University
Eckerd College
**Embry Riddle Aeronautical
University**
Emory University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Fort Lewis College
Franklin and Marshall College
The George Washington University
Goucher College
Grinnell College
Guilford College
Hendrix College
Hope College
Humboldt State University
Johnson & Wales University
Juniata College
Kalamazoo College
Knox College
Laboratory Institute
of Merchandising (LIM)
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Linfield College
Macalester College
Marquette University
**University of Massachusetts,
Boston**
Mount Holyoke College
University of New Mexico
New Mexico State University
New Mexico Tech
New York University
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
University of Northern Colorado
Northwestern University
Occidental College
Oglethorpe University
Ohio Wesleyan
University of Oregon

Otis College of Art and Design
University of the Pacific
Pomona College
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Rhodes College
University of Rochester
Saint Mary's College of California
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
Santa Clara University
**Santa Fe University of Art
and Design**
Seattle University
St. Edward's University
St. John's College
St. Olaf College
Southern Utah University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Syracuse University
University of Texas, Austin
Texas Tech University
Trinity College
Tulane University
University of Tulsa
United States Naval Academy
Ursinus College
University of Utah
University of Virginia
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
Western Washington University
Westminster College
Wheaton College (IL)
Whitman College
Whittier College
Willamette University
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute



COTTONWOOD CLASSICAL
PREPARATORY SCHOOL